National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Olympic National Park
Washington

Olympic

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Explore Olympic

Waves boom along wilderness beaches and mix with snow-fed rivers. Ancient trees shelter wildlife. Rugged peaks embrace glaciers and subalpine meadows. Coast, forest, and mountain ecosystems combine to create this spectacular wilderness park. The Olympic Peninsula is home to eight American Indian tribes that developed complex hunter-gatherer societies and continue to keep their traditions alive. European explorers who ventured here in the late 1700s heralded the way for homesteaders. The Olympics were set aside as a national monument in 1909 and further protected as Olympic National Park in 1938. Today the park is internationally recognized as a Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site, testimony to its rich resources. Explore Olympic—a gift to the future.

Coast Tides control the rhythm of life along this biologically diverse coastline. Twice-daily intertidal animals face pounding surf and drying winds. Coastal rivers serve as highways for migrating fish, and downed trees along riverbanks protect young salmon journeying from mountains to sea. When the adults return and swim upstream to spawn, their flesh carries a special form of nitrogen gathered during their years at sea. Most salmon die after spawning, but their death brings life. Bears, eagles, insects, and other animals feed on salmon carcasses, then deposit nutrients in rivers and forests. Marine nitrogen nourishes forest soils—a gift from the salmon.

Forests Olympic National Park protects the largest old-growth forest in the Pacific Northwest. Its unique character begins with ancient trees that took root 200 to 1,000 years ago. In these forests multi-layered canopies, standing snags, and fallen trunks provide habitat for myriad animals. Differences in moisture (from 40 to 240 inches annually), and changes in elevation (from sea-level to 7,980 feet) create a mosaic of forests in the park. Temperate rain forests grow along the coast and in ocean-facing valleys. Lowland, montane, and subalpine forests cloak other park areas. Olympic supports complex forest communities—a gift from the past.

Mountains A world of landscapes unfolds here: glaciers chisel U-shaped valleys, and brilliantly colored wildflowers blanket subalpine meadows. Geologists still debate the origins of the Olympics. Some 50 million years ago lava gushed from underwater rips in the edge of the continent, hardening into miles-thick layers of basalt. Later an immense submerged delta of sandstone and shale formed farther out in the ocean. These layered rocks slowly rode back to the continent and jammed beneath the basalts, forcing the Olympics to rise from the sea 10 to 20 million years ago. Ice-age glaciers helped carve the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound, separating the Olympics from nearby lands. Years of isolation nurtured the rich biodiversity of the Peninsula, where over 20 plants and animals are found nowhere else on Earth. The rugged Olympic Mountains—a gift from the sea.

ILLUSTRATION NPS / JOHN DAWSON

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Planning Your Visit to Olympic National Park

Getting Around the Park

Ranger station
Ranger station *(summer only)*
Campground
Campground *(summer only)*
Primitive campground
Primitive campground *(summer only)*
Self-guiding trail
Wheelchair accessible
Boat launch
Picnic area
Lodge
Food service

Not a Drive-through Park

No roads pass through the heart of the Olympics. US 101 provides the main access, with numerous spur roads leading into the park.

Paved road
Unpaved road

Hiking the Wilderness

Do not use this map for hiking. Get detailed topographic maps.

Permits required for all overnight wilderness stays. Obtain permits at the Wilderness Information Center (WIC). Call 360-565-3100 or visit the WIC to get *Wilderness Trip Planner* and more information. Wilderness users should inquire about river and creek ford locations and difficulty in crossing.

Trail
Primitive trail
Pass

Visiting the Coast

Caution: Don't get trapped by high tides; get current tide chart at a ranger station. When hiking, watch for targets marking overland trails.

Sudden high waves can pick up beach logs and turn them into weapons; they kill.

Most reefs, rocks, islets, and islands (except the James Island group) are designated **wilderness** and **national wildlife refuges, CLOSED** to visitors to protect wildlife. Boats must remain 200 yards from the islands.

Impassable headland; ALWAYS use overland trail
Wait for low tide or use overland trail if available

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary covers 3,310 square miles of marine waters. The sanctuary provides habitat for one of the most diverse populations of marine mammals in North America. It is a link in the Pacific flyway and provides critical habitat for nesting and migrating birds. To learn more, visit www.olympiccoast.noaa.gov.

Are you here for a day? A week? Maybe you've come to this wilderness park to stroll the rain forest with its massive trees, lush vegetation, and Roosevelt elk. Maybe you plan to hike in the mountains amid Olympic marmots and magenta paintbrush. Perhaps you are headed for the ocean to see tidepools with intriguing creatures, marvel at arches and sea stacks, and explore the beaches. Even if you have plans already, stop at a visitor center or ranger station. You will find information that can help make your day or your week at Olympic National Park even better.

Visitor Centers Here you can find information, exhibits, publications, movies, and maps. Olympic National Park, Hurricane Ridge, and Hoh Rain Forest visitor centers are open in summer; hours and staffing are limited in other seasons. Ranger and information station hours vary seasonally. The free park newspaper *Bugler* has articles on safety, research, and activities. Service animals are welcome.

Wilderness Information Center (WIC) Contact WIC for wilderness trip planning, trail and weather reports, safety and Leave No Trace tips, reservations, permits, maps, and approved bear canisters:
Wilderness Information Center
3002 Mount Angeles Rd.
Port Angeles, WA 98362
360-565-3100
olym_wic@nps.gov
www.nps.gov/olym

Fees Entrance, camping, overnight wilderness use, and other fees are collected in the national park. Additional fees may apply on surrounding public and tribal lands.

Lodging, Supplies, Services Inside the park most lodging, supplies, and services are available seasonally. Outside they are available year-round.

Camping Most campsites are available first-come, first-served. Fees vary. Some campgrounds are open year-round. Sites at Kalaloch Campground can be reserved in summer at www.recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777.

Accessibility We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information go to a visitor center, ask a ranger, call, or check our website.

Keep Wildlife Wild! Animals here are wild and can be dangerous—remain at least 150 feet away and never try to feed them. Cougars are rarely seen; if you meet one pick up small children, wave your arms, and shout. Give bears a wide berth and let them move away. Report all bear or cougar sightings. Keep a clean camp. Store food, garbage, and toiletries properly. Obtain approved bear canisters at the WIC or some ranger stations.

Safety and Regulations Check park bulletin boards, newspapers, and handouts or ask a ranger about safety and regulations. • Be prepared for rain and sudden weather changes; roads may close. • Stay on trails; shortcuts cause erosion. • Put out campfires completely. • Pets must be leashed and are restricted to designated areas. • Vehicles are not allowed off park roads. • Use caution on the beaches. Boardwalks and rocks can be slippery. Logs in the surf can be deadly. • Walk gently in the rocky intertidal areas where plants and animals live. • Stay back from cliff edges; they may be undercut—a fall could be fatal. • Do not disturb or remove plants, tree bark, driftwood, artifacts, or animals, including those in tide pools. Federal law protects natural and cultural features. • For firearms regulations check the park website.

Emergencies call 911

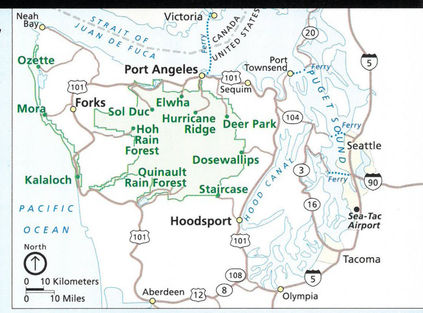
More Information
Olympic National Park
600 East Park Ave.
Port Angeles, WA 98362
360-565-3130
360-565-3131 (roads and weather)
TTY 800-833-6388
www.nps.gov/olym
Find us on Facebook and Twitter.

No roads go through the park so allow plenty of travel time between these popular sites. Use these maps and the time/distance chart to plan your visit.

Coastal Ozette offers hikes to wilderness beaches and views of the third largest lake in Washington. Mora has beach hikes to arches and sea stacks. Kalaloch features sandy beaches, tide pools, and coastal forests.

Forests and Big Trees Experience the park's forests at Elwha, Sol Duc, Dosewallips, and Staircase and rain forests of Hoh and Quinault. Several park trees hold records for their size.

Mountains and Glaciers Hurricane Ridge (5,242 feet/1,599 meters) offers views of Mount Olympus, glaciers, and the wilderness. Look for black-tailed deer in subalpine meadows.



Approximate Travel Times and Miles

Seattle to Port Angeles via ferry	3 hr	72 mi
Sea-Tac Airport to Port Angeles via Tacoma	3 hr	130 mi
Port Angeles to Hurricane Ridge	45 min	17 mi
Port Angeles to Staircase	3 hr	100 mi
Port Angeles to Ozette	2½ hr	88 mi
Port Angeles to Forks	1½ hr	59 mi
Forks to Hoh Rain Forest	1 hr	32 mi
Forks to Kalaloch	1 hr	36 mi
Kalaloch to Quinault Rain Forest	45 min	33 mi

Wilderness on the Olympic Peninsula

Nearly one million acres on the Olympic Peninsula are protected as wilderness—95 percent of Olympic National Park, five areas in Olympic National Forest, and over 600 islands in national wildlife refuges. Learn more at www.nps.gov/olym.

Wilderness forever protects the land's natural conditions, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and scientific, educational, and historical values. Learn more about the National Wilderness Preservation System at www.wilderness.net.

Olympic National Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. Learn more about national parks at www.nps.gov.

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